

Vision Charter School

Syllabus for United States Government 2017/2018 School Year

Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.
Theodore Roosevelt

Teacher: Kurt Scheffler

Email: kurtscheffler@cwidaho.cc

Course Description

This basic course in political science introduces the basic concepts and major structural elements of the national government. Many aspects of American government are introduced and discussed in a way that will make the study of government more a part of the students' world.

Pre-requisites: None

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will have a better understanding of the importance of politics and government. In addition, students will be more prepared to think analytically and critically about basic political and governmental actions.

The Student will also:

- Understand the basic structure of American Government.
- Understand the comparative political and economic systems.
- Use critical thinking to analyze and interpret American Government and Politics.
- Apply insights from the study of political science to understand local, state, national and international developments.
- Follow, understand, and discuss current events.
- Gain an appreciation for and understanding of how the Government of the State of Idaho works.

Student Expectations:

1. Responsibility:

- Be on time, be prepared, and be ready to learn
- Be responsible for yourself, your materials, and your actions
- Follow all classroom procedures and ask questions if you don't understand

2. Respect:

- Classroom rule #1 Respect yourself, respect other students, respect the teacher, respect the school, and school property.

- Listen to others and they will listen to you.
- 3. Honesty:**
 - Build relationships founded on trust, with your teacher and fellow classmates.
 - Be honest with everyone, especially yourself!
- 4. Caring:**
 - Be kind to everyone!
 - Contribute to the learning environment by expressing a caring attitude to everyone.
 - Work together to solve your problems, everyone has talents and needs to be involved!
- 5. Adhere to all Vision Charter School Rules!**
 - Follow the dress code!
 - Electronic devices are allowed only at my discretion. Do not “hide” your device, it will be assumed you are using it inappropriately and it will be confiscated. When I ask the class to put them away, they should be put in pockets or bags without argument. If you have your device confiscated it will be given to the office at the end of the day and your parents will have to get them. You will also lose the privilege of using electronic devices for the rest of the semester.
 - Clean up your mess!

Classroom Procedures:

- 1. Starting Class:**
 - Be on time and be prepared to begin SSR.
 - If you need to get my attention, raise your hand and wait patiently, please do not interrupt me or another student.
- 2. End of Class:**
 - Make sure you have all of your assignments written down
 - Make sure your area is clean
 - Turn in all of your work that is due that day.
- 3. Grades:**
 - No late work will be accepted!
 - Students will have two calendar days for an excused absence to make up work. It is the student’s responsibility to request and turn in make-up work.
 - For both middle school and high school transcripts, grades are dependent on semesters, not quarters. Quarters are essentially a progress report grade for the semester. VCS will continue to give quarter grades, but the semester grades will be based on the entire points for the semester instead of an average of the two quarter grades.
 - Students will receive one grade report per quarter. It is the student’s responsibility to share reports with parents and/or guardians.

4. SSR Books:

- (Silent Sustained Reading) Reading is an essential aspect of any study of history. Near the beginning of each class we will take 15 to 20 minutes to read a book of your choice from my library, the Newspaper, or a news magazine. At the end of the SSR period, each student will note the book they read, the pages they covered, and write a short summary. Extra credit will be awarded for some of the books!

5. Discipline Procedures:

It is expected that all students will follow the rules of the class and of Vision Charter School. In the case of minor infractions, such as talking too much in class or coming unprepared, etc. the student will receive a warning from the teacher. If the behavior continues, the student will receive lunch time detention. After three lunch time detentions, parents followed by school administration. In the case of serious offenses, such as bullying, harassment, fighting etc. the student will be referred to school administration

To the Parents/Guardians:

Effective communication between guardians and teacher is an essential aspect of student success. I will make it a point to keep up regular communication, especially if your student begins to struggle. If you have any questions, the most effective way to get a hold of me is through e-mail. My e-mail address is kurtscheffler@cwidaho.cc you may also reach me at the school, by phone, on most school days between 7:45 and 5:00.

Please fill out and remove the following section and give it to your student to return to me.

How do you prefer to be contacted (circle one)?

Phone or Mail

Phone # _____ E:mail address: _____

I have read the syllabus with my student and I understand the classroom policies and procedures:

Guardian
Signature _____ *Date:* _____

